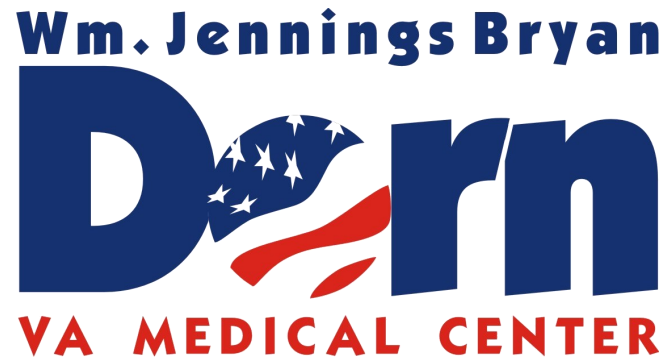


VALOR Pharmacy Internship Program

The Department of Veterans Affairs Learning Opportunities Residency
William Jennings Bryan Dorn VA Medical Center



Program Prerequisites

- Completion of second profession year (P2) of pharmacy school
- Must be a rising P3 (during 2016-2017 academic year)
- Cumulative GPA ≥ 3.0 in core pharmacy curriculum
- Must be a U.S. citizen
- Must be able to complete a minimum of 400 intern hours between May 2016 and April 2017

Application Information

- To apply please send the following documents to the contact listed below via e-mail or mail:
 - Cover letter describing interest in program
 - Curriculum vitae
 - Official copy of university transcripts (Unofficial transcripts will be accepted with official transcript required at time of interview)
 - Two letters of recommendation
 - Letter from the Dean or Assistant Dean nominating you and indicating completion (or upcoming completion) of P2 year, full time enrollment status and anticipated graduation date
- Applications must be received no later than midnight on 3/1/2016

Application Address and Contact Information for Questions:

MaryAnne Maurer, Pharm.D., BCPS, BCACP

Wm. Jennings Bryan Dorn VAMC (Pharmacy 119)

6439 Garners Ferry Road

Columbia, SC 29209

(803)776-4000 x 6806

Program Information

The VALOR program is a program designed to immerse pharmacy students in a clinical environment at a VA Medical Center where they can apply the information they have already been taught, as well as further develop their clinical skills. The program begins in May and will run during the summer and upcoming academic year. A minimum of 400 hours at the VA facility must be completed prior to program completion. Scheduling is somewhat flexible so that students' university requirements are completed as required. VALOR interns will work at least 2 weekends per month during the summer and academic year in support of the Dorn VA pharmacy service. This experience aims to provide students with experience that cannot be achieved through positions in other areas of pharmacy practice. Participants will be evaluated on their learning experiences and will benefit from feedback on their performance. Experiences are project based and involve each of the following areas.

1) Informatics

Technology is important at the VA. The state-of-the-art technology and computerized charting system within the VA is one of the main reasons why individuals seek VA employment. The Columbia VA medical center uses ScriptPro technology to help with filling outpatient prescriptions, an Omnicell inpatient pharmacy carousel storage system, and a combination of Pyxis and Omnicell automated dispensing machines. The VALOR participant will be exposed to all of these various technologies as well as the CPRS drug file.

2) Administrative

Policies and procedures are essential in any pharmacy setting and here at the Columbia VA medical center is no different. With over 90 pharmacy employees, it is crucial to have established policies in place. This area will allow the VALOR participant to engage in the creation of new practices and to ensure policies are being met every day.

3) Clinical

With over 75,000 outpatients serviced by the hospital, the need for clinical services at the Columbia VA continues to grow. The need for medication reconciliation is also continuing to grow. As new medications and medication devices become more common, physician, nursing, and patient education on proper dosing and use is essential. The VALOR participants will also work with clinical staff to develop new methods for patient care. The VA clinics cover several different areas of care that the participant may have an opportunity to experience.

a) Ambulatory Medicine

There are three primary care clinics at the facility and seven surrounding community based outpatient clinics (CBOCs), with each clinic employing 1-3 clinical pharmacists and multiple specialty care clinics. Pharmacists manage patients in areas such as hypertension, lipids, diabetes, smoking cessation, pain management and anticoagulation.

b) Inpatient Medicine

There are five clinical pharmacy specialists supporting the internal medicine and critical care teams. The pharmacists perform activities relating to antibiotic use, renal medication dosing, and pharmacokinetics. Medication reconciliation and patient discharge counseling is also conducted in this area. Activities in this setting include TPN monitoring, insulin dosing, antibiotic use and dosing, pharmacokinetics, and anticoagulation management.